उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री दिनेश त्रिवेदी): ऐसा है, एक बार ट्रेन लेट हो जाती है तो वह लेट चलती रहती है। मगर हम लेट नहीं करेंगे, आप चालू कीजिए। हम लोग कोशिश करेंगे कि आधे घंटे में इस को समाप्त कर दें।

श्री एस0एस0 अहलुवालिया : आधे घंटे में समाप्त कर लेंगे?

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री दिनेश त्रिवेदी): कर लेंगे, Please, start now. (Interruptions) बागड़ोदिया साहब, आप चालू कीजिए। संतोष बागड़ोदिया साहब प्लीज डिबेट चालू कीजिए।

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

Points arising out of answers given in Rajya Sabha on 10th August, 2006 to Starred Questions No.242 and 249 Regarding 'Discrimination Against Indians in British Jails' and 'Negotiations for release of Indians in British Jails.'

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajasthan): Sir, finally, I am able to raise this discussion on discrimination against Indians in different jails all over the world. Sir, as per the information provided by the Government, currently, Indian prisoners are interned in 42 jails all over the world. Sir, in Europe and America, Indian prisoners are detained for the charges relating to immigration laws or serious crimes like murder or narco trade. In Germany, the local authorities do not provide information about murder and crime.

Now, in different countries, the Ambassadors or the Embassies or the High Commission offices, they do not bother even about ordinary citizens who are visitors from India to those countries. They do not bother about the NRIs. If they do not bother about them, how will they bother about these prisoners? This is the lowest priority. I would request the hon. Minister to please look into this aspect. They are also human beings. I am not saying that they will change the law. Different countries have different laws. Let them follow their laws. Those who are criminals, they should be punished. I have nothing against them. My only submission is that, at least, we should have statistics. We have computers now. One cannot say that he does not know this information or that information. Maybe he does not have the information today, but the information should be collected and this should be kept all the time. How many prisoners are there in different jails; what kind of crimes have they committed; for how long are they under-trials; do they need any kind of help, so that they may not remain under-trial for life? These are the things. How many women are there? Children may have been also in jails for different crimes, whether small or big. We should

have these statistics. They are our brothers; they are our sisters. Maybe under different circumstances, they committed some crimes. So, we should have these statistics. This is what I wanted to know.

In fact, in the U.S.A., 158 Indians are languishing in the New York Jail. Most of them are booked for violation of Immigration Laws, remaining are booked for crimes. How many of these are under-trials and for how long? All these information may please be made available.

Sir, I have come to know that in US, Indians arrested in the aftermath of 9/11 terrorist attacks are languishing in Wackenhut Detention Center without being charged and many without access even to lawyers. I think there is some responsibility of our Government. They are on hunger strike. An Indian immigrant, Mr. Makhan Singh, is one of the prisoners there. He has said in an interview that no one is eating. He has also said that he has a wife and two children who are American citizens. He has been in detention centre for six months. The Wackenhut prison, the report says, is a converted warehouse building with no windows in the middle of a warehouse district in Springfield Gardens, Queens. He said, "We need people to know about our situation." Further, he says, "We must be heard and we will starve if we have to." Many of the Wackenhut prisoners have been deprived of freedom for years even though no terrorism-related or other criminal charges have been brought against any one of them. These people should be taken care of. There is some kind of responsibility of our Government also.

Similarly, Sir, in Gulf region, in UAE, there are 1073 prisoners, in Muscat, there are 72, in Saudi Arabia, there are 1444. They are unskilled labourers who had gone there. They are semi-skilled. They don't have proper education also. They don't know for what kind of offences they have been jailed. So, it should be the responsibility of our nation to look into these aspects.

Sir, coming to Pakistan, there are 371 fishermen, 205 civilians and 64 POWs languishing in Pakistan. Eight civilians have been languishing for 25 years, ten for the last 20 years, 25 for the last 15 years and 27 for more than five years in Pakistani jails.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN, SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA, in the Chair]

Sir, these are the people who are there for fifteen or twenty years. They say, 64 POWs! POWs should have been released. What is the use of our having a good relation with Pakistan if our POWs are still there? The Government has to be a little more sensitive about it. The Government owes a responsibility; we owe a responsibility for the release in the interest of the families of these soldiers who are POWs. Sir, have we sought the help of Red Cross under international humanitarian laws and Geneva Conventions on POWs? If yes, when and what was the outcome? Has the Government shared the information on POWs given by released prisoners, with Red Cross? These are the kind of questions which come to our mind. These are all for humanitarian consideration. On this question, the hon. Minister has mentioned last time, when it was discussed, that we don't have proper information. We have referred to those countries. Now, we have our embassies there. We have a High Commission. Do we just send letters and wait for their replies? Why not our officers, local officers, visit and get all the information? I am sure if efforts are made, at least, the information can be collected. Saying that information is not available, is not acceptable.

Sir, similarly, Bangladesh has got 871 Indians who are languishing in Bangladeshi jails. We would like to know their background and the crime for which they have been arrested and for how long. What has been the response of Bangladesh authorities to the requests of Indian Mission regarding these prisoners? Is it true that India-Bangladesh are planning to sign Extradition Treaty? Sir, in nearby countries, even in Burma, we have about 26 Indian prisoners; in Malaysia, 460 Indian prisoners. Now, they might have committed some crimes, but all of them are definitely not criminals. I am sure some of them are innocent also. We owe a responsibility to them. They have gone there to earn their living. They have been arrested for reasons known to them. At least, we should provide some help because they are far away from India. They are all poor people. Their relations cannot handle it. In that case, Government cannot shirk their responsibility.

In case of Pakistan, Sir, these fishermen who are very poor people go to the sea for fishing. And sometimes, they enter into the Pakistani waters innocently. They are arrested! What are we doing to help these poor people who have been arrested for not much of their fault?

Finally, Sir, what has happened to Sarabjeet? It is such a sensitive issue. When we talk about good relations, a sensitive issue like Sarabjeet's

should be handled. And we know that his sister has recently tried to immolate herself also. It appears to me also that Sarabjeet is not a criminal. He did not go there for spying. But there can be a difference of opinion. I think that if the Government takes up the matter with the right authority, something can be done about it. With this, Sir, I shall request the Government of India to provide urgent legal and consular services to the Indian interns. Our Missions should be able to provide them the requisite legal and consular aids under the various international covenants on immigrant prisoners. Thank you very much, Sir.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री कलराज मिश्र) : माननीय मंत्री जी।

श्री मोती लाल वोरा (छत्तीसगढ़): सर, मुझे बोलना है।

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Sir, his name was there. He should be allowed to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री कलराज मिश्र): माननीय मंत्री जी। अभी और सदस्य बोलने वाले हैं। ...(व्यवधान)...

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): Yes, Sir. I am here. ...*(Interruptions)*...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री कलराज मिश्र): यह माननीय मंत्री जी के ऊपर है कि पहले इनका जवाब दे दें। उसके बाद आप लोग बोल लें, फिर जवाब दें, जैसा उचित समझें।

श्री मोती लाल वोरा : सर, जवाब पहले कैसे देंगे? ...(व्यवधान)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री कलराज मिश्र) : पहले उनका जवाब दे देंगे। फिर आप लोग जो बोलेंगे, उसका जवाब देंगे। ...(व्यवधान)... ठीक है, चलिए। मंत्री जी, इन लोगों के बोल लेने के बाद आप जवाब दे दीजिए।

SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, two questions, Q.No.242 and Q.No.249, were put on 10th August. One question was concerning Indians who are lodged in British jails, and the answer given was: "239 Indians lodged in British jails have been imprisoned in crimes like violence against persons, violation of traffic rules and drug offences." On such types of crimes, there was another question also, No.249. The answer given was: "U.K. Government has been approached to furnish details of crimes of Indians as early as possible. But no reaction of the U.K. Government was available on that." Sir, the question was: "Has our Government approached the British Government?" In this regard, I would like to tell the Members, because all of you know this, one Peter Bleach, British national, who was arrested in the Purulia arms drop incident

was accorded a pardon. And this British national, Peter Bleach, was released. Five Latvian pilots who were sentenced to life imprisonment. Along with Bleach, they also were pardoned by the then President, *

Peter Bleach himself told that he had expressed his gratitude to the British Government for relentlessly pursuing his case with the Indian Government. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, names should not be mentioned. He can only say 'the former President'. But his name should not be there. ...(*Interruptions*)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री कलराज मिश्र) : नहीं, आप नाम न लें। सीधे प्रश्न पूछे, ज्यादा अच्छा रहेगा।

SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: All right. The then President pardoned this fellow, Peter Bleach, and five Latvian pilots were released.

Sir, this was a serious case. On December 17, 1995, several boxes containing arms and ammunition were dropped from Antonov-26, that is, An-26, in Bansgarh village of Purlia District in West Bengal. There was a serious conspiracy. The conspiracy was against the Left Front Government in West Bengal. They were conspiring to kill the Left Front activists.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री कलराज मिश्र): श्री तारिणी कांत जी, कृपया सीधा प्रश्न पूछें।

SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: This was the incident. If criminals like Peter Bleach, a British national, could be released, why doesn't our Government pursue the issue of releasing Indian prisoners, whose crimes are not so serious, with the British Government? I must say that their crimes are not of a serious nature like anti-national. There is a reference to other countries. I don't want to go into that. The cases of Indians who are in jails in other countries should be looked into by our Government. This is my appeal to the Government. Thank you.

श्री मोती लाल वोरा: माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैंने 10 तारीख को जो एक प्रश्न पूछा था, उस पर यह आधे घंटे की चर्चा शुरु हुई है। मैंने माननीय मंत्री जी से इस बात की जानकारी चाही थी कि ब्रिटिश जेल में जो 239 भारतीय कैदी आज रखे गए हैं, वे कितने वर्षों से हैं और उनके विरुद्ध कौन-कौन से अपराध कायम किए गए हैं और उनके साथ जिस प्रकार का अमानवीय व्यवहार वहां पर हो रहा है, उसके बारे में क्या भारत सरकार को जानकारी है? माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी के ध्यान में इस बात को लाना

* Not recorded

चाहता हूं कि ब्रिटिश संसद में इस बात को बार-बार कहा गया है कि इन विदेशी कैदियों को यहां से निकाला जाना चाहिए और निकाले जाने की इस बात को वहां के प्रधान मंत्री जी ने हाल ही में कहा। बात बहुत ही गंभीर थी। गंभीरता के बाद, जो विपक्ष के सांसद थे, उनके दबाव के कारण आज उन्हें खुली जेल में रखा गया है और खुली जेल में रखने के बाद जिस प्रकार की यातनाएं आज भारतीय कैदियों को वहां दी जा रही हैं, हम माननीय मंत्री जी से इस बात की जानकारी चाहते थे, क्योंकि आपने कहा कि उनके विरुद्ध बलात्कार के आरोप हैं और जघन्य आरोपों से वे घिरे हुए हैं। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपके ध्यान में इस बात को भी लाना चाहूंगा कि अनेक देशों में, प्रश्न तो केवल ब्रिटिश जेल से उद्भूत हुआ था, लेकिन दुनिया के अनेक देशों के आंकड़ों की संख्या को अगर आप देखेंगे तो 6730 भारतीय दुनिया के विभिन्न देशों की जेलों में आज बंद पड़े हैं। उनका अता-पता तो होगा माननीय मंत्री जी को। लेकिन, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से इस बात को जानना चाहूंगा कि जिन देशों का नाम, क्योंकि समय का अभाव है, कम से कम 50 देश हैं, जहां भारतीय कैदी बंद हैं, कहीं पर तो 700-800 की संख्या में हैं, कहीं 900 की संख्या में हैं, कहीं 500 की संख्या में हैं। आखिर आजादी के 60 वर्ष बीत चुके हैं और कितने ही वर्षों से वे भारतीय कैदी के रूप में वहां हैं, उनके विरुद्ध कौन-कौन से आरोप लगाए गए हैं। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से इस बात को जानना चाहूंगा कि कम से कम ब्रिटिश जेल में जो 239 कैदी बंद हैं, वे कब से बंद हैं? उनके नाम की जानकारी तो आप बाद में देते रहेंगे, लेकिन उनके साथ मानवीय व्यवहार होना चाहिए और जो अमानवीय व्यवहार वहां पर हो रहा है, उस पर रोक लगनी चाहिए।

SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the hon. Member, Shri Bagrodia has given very important statistics. I want to point out only two things to the hon. Minister. The number of Indian citizens, languishing in Indian jails, is increasing. We are aware that if any offence is committed, they are bound by the laws of those countries. We have no dispute on that. But the problem is that they are denied any legal aid. Recently, in connection with one such incident, I wrote a letter to the hon. Minister, and he was kind enough to forward it to an Embassy of a friendly country in UAE. One person from Tamil Nadu was arrested there as two beer bottles were found in his room. We do not know whether he got them or not. The police came, and he was sentenced with five years imprisonment and 10,000 whippings were ordered. To my letter, the Embassy gave a reply that the judicial system in the country is such that it is not transparent. No legal aid was given, and the accused was not aware as to for what offence he had been charged. He was not aware of the system of trial, and he was punished. And, an appeal has been filed. Even a Tamil interpreter was not arranged for him. Now, the Embassy has written to me that they would take up the matter with the authorities there. My point of submission to the hon. Minister is that our Embassies must be sensitised so that the human values of Indian citizens, languishing in these jails, are taken seriously. Mere hosting of parties for visiting dignitaries is not enough; we should take up

this matter seriously with them. The human rights issue is involved. We must take it to the International Court of Justice, if necessary, and see to it that justice is done. If an offence is committed, let them be punished according to the law of their country. But these persons are entitled to have a legal aid, and it is the duty of the Indian Government to protect the Indian citizens; I say this of the fishermen too. But one thing is alarming, as Shri Bagrodia mentioned. We are talking about the Embassy in Pakistan. Sixty-four Prisoners of War are languishing in Pakistani jails. I want the hon. Minister to throw light on this aspect as well, so that we can be assured that the Government is taking initiative to see to it that our citizens are protected. Sir, several persons from this country go to foreign countries for earning some money, but they end up languishing in jails there and their families are suffering on the Indian soil.

SHRI E. AHAMMED: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I am very much grateful to the hon. Member who has raised this discussion, which has given me an opportunity to respond and allay some of the misgivings and information which, I feel, is not wholly correct. But it is a very important matter. The Government is very much conscious of the plight of our Indians, whether they are inside the prisons or outside, and wherever there is an opportunity for the Government to help them through a system and to get them released, no stone is unturned so far as this matter is concerned. I would just like to give some facts, which I hope, would give some satisfaction, though not fully, and also give some information to the hon. Members of this House. The number of Indian prisoners is on the decrease. I am speaking on the basis of the information available with the Government. The diplomats of the Indian Embassies are periodically visiting these jails, and whatever counselling is to be provided to our prisoners, they are doing. There are approximately 25 million persons of Indian origin staying in 199 countries, out of which 10 million are purportedly Indian passport holders. A majority of them are concentrated in the Gulf region, the Middle East, Europe, U.S., Canada and Australia. According to the latest information available, 5,811 Indians are currently lodged in various foreign jails in 48 countries for involvement in various crimes. The number of Indian prisoners has gone down from 6,656 in May, 2006, to 5,811 at present. Similarly, the number of Indian prisoners in Britain has come down from 259 in December, 2005 to 239 in August, 2006.

And, there is no Indian prisoner in 151 countries. And, as I have mentioned, they have been arrested, and they are also undergoing

imprisonment for various crimes, murder, abduction, smuggling, robbery, forgery, theft, illegal entry, sexual abuse, rape, violation of traffic rules, drug trafficking, human trafficking, etc., etc. Before I go to the Indian High Commission Report, I would like to respond to the points raised by my esteemed colleague, Bagrodiaji. He mentioned about Pakistan. He has mentioned about the Pakistani prisons. As far as the PoWs are concerned, we always ask Pakistan that there are PoWs, and also give them their numbers and everything. Every time, Pakistan is also denying it. Sometime back, there was a proposal to send their relatives, but somehow, it did not work. This is the fact.

Sir, India secured the release of 1171 Indian fishermen from Pakistan in 2005. In 2006, we have secured the release of 93 Indian fishermen. The Indian High Commission in Pakistan got Consular access to 905 prisoners, including fishermen in 2005, and 505 prisoners, including fishermen in 2006 also have been given Consular access. And, as part of a composite dialogue, both the Pakistan Maritime Agency and the Indian Coast Guard have come to an understanding that whenever the fishermen cross each other's territorial waters, they will first take them into custody. After given access to the Mission to ascertain their nationality, they will be released. This is the process which is going on. I don't want to give any definite answer about Sarbajit Singh, at this point of time, since I don't have the latest information with me.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: But, you can assure that you will try.

SHRI E. AHAMMED: I will have to. There is always an assurance from the Minister whenever Members raise such an important issue.

At the same time, Sir, as I have already mentioned, the Indian Missions are doing their very best to provide the Consular service to all the prisoners. And, coming back to British jails about which my learned colleague and esteemed colleague, Shri Voraji has mentioned, according to the information furnished by the Indian High Commission in London, the number, as I mentioned, is 239, but it is reported that there are 5.7 lakhs persons of Indian origin living in Britain. Out of which about one lakh are Indian passport holders. But, taking into account the number of Asian prisoners there - there are many other countries also, as per the report we have received - 172 prisoners from Bangladesh, 156 from Sri Lanka, and 444 Pakistanis. Out of 259 Indian prisoners as on 31.12.2005, nine were females.

8.00 P.M.

I am giving this information because last time, when I was replying to this question, I was asked about it. We are not aware of any Indian being kept in open jails. And the number of Indian prisoners *vis-a-vis* other nationalities of the Indian subcontinent in British jails is not much considering the large size of the Indian community living in England. However, all the time, we have been taking up issues with the authorities of the concerned countries. So far as British jails are concerned, for the alleged discrimination against Indians in foreign jails also, the Indian High Commission has given us the report that nothing so far has come to their notice about the discrimination against Indian prisoners in Britain.

In one recent case, it was found that the British jail authorities provided very good treatment to a disabled Indian prisoner. They take care of that part of prisoners also. That is why I specially mentioned it. The British High Commission in Delhi also has informed the Government that there is no discrimination against Indians in their jails. The Consuls periodically visit the U.K. jails to render Consul assistance to Indian prisoners. So, if any Member has any valuable information, with respect to the discrimination meted out to any Indian prisoner, we will definitely take up the matter with the respective Government, not only in the U.K., but in all the places.

The Indian Missions abroad have been monitoring the number of Indians jailed in the countries of their jurisdiction. Whenever necessary, our Missions approach the local authorities for expediting the judicial proceedings. But, it is a very difficult process. In different countries, there are different judicial systems. An hon. Member mentioned about the judicial system in Saudi Arabia. They have their own judicial system which is their exclusive and sovereign right. We would not be able to interfere in everything. Whenever there is any drug-related case, the Saudi Arabian authorities will not entertain even an appeal. Even now there are people who have been sentenced to death. They are waiting for such a horrible situation where our interference has limitless. But they have made it abundantly clear that in the drug-related cases, even an appeal before Saudi Government will not be entertained. That is the law of that country. So, many a time, I am sorry to say, there are some Indians who have been cheated by their own fellow citizens in certain circumstances.

In the Gulf countries including Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, and Kuwait we have made a system - twice a week, in the Indian Mission, there will be a free legal assistance and that is arranged by our Mission for Indian community. Nobody need to pay any fees to the lawyer who comes there and help them about the cases related to immigration, passport and other issues. This is being given in the Gulf countries. But, we were not able to provide this service in all the countries because there are people living in far off places; but, in the Gulf countries, Indians are concentrated in many places. So, it would be very easy for them to have access to our Embassies and Missions. So, these are some of the things which in practice in there countries.

Sir, my friend has also mentioned about the Purulia matter. Sir, that is a case which has already been decided. But, at the same time, the Indian Mission cannot interfere in the judicial system of any country. If there is a judicial verdict by a court of law in a place like England, they will have to face it. We are not able to do much over there. At the same time, we have one agreement with the British Government that has been signed by our Home Minister when Jack Straw interior security of U.K. visited this country last year. As per that agreement, if any prisoner of Indian nationality would like to come back to India to undergo the remaining period of his prison term, he can very well apply for it. For that, firstly, he has to establish that he is an Indian national. Then, in India his petition will be received and sufficient inquiry will be done whether he is an Indian national and whether the crime for which he has been punished is also a crime punishable in the Indian jurisprudence. Then, again, after all these formalities are over, after serving at least six months of term out of total term of imprisonment, over there, he can very well come over here to serve balance prison term for which he has been convicted in U.K.

But, Sir, I would like to say that even today there is not even one single Indian prisoner in Britain has applied for that. Maybe, for them it is better to undergo the imprisonment there rather than coming to their home state. Nobody has applied so far. If anybody will apply, definitely, we will have to do that. But nobody has come. But in the meantime, my friend, Bagrodiaji, has mentioned about some people who are in American jail and some people also in London. But they are the immigration offenders. They are not to be treated as ordinary prisoners who committed some other crime.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: In the disguise of terrorism, I have mentioned that. ...*(Interruptions)*... They are in New York. Please ask your Mission. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI E. AHAMMED: I will look into it. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, the information received is that in the US jails there are only 18 Indian prisoners. But those people who will be taken and will be given shelter in the camp for their immigration offence, it will not be treated as the prisoners who committed some crimes and who have been convicted by the court and undergoing their imprisonment term. They will not be treated like that. They will be treated as immigration offenders and for immigration offence here in India also we have entered into a MOU, have a Memorandum Understanding with Britain. I think during the last Government's time, that is, the NDA Government, the then Home Minister had also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with U.K. which says that if the British Government will inform that there is a person who claims to be an Indian who violates in graion laws and, the details will be given to our High Commission, our High Commission will transmit it to India and the State Government concerned and they will make necessary inquiry. Once it is established that he is an Indian, it will again be communicated to the British Government through our High Commission. Then he will be deported. We have also deported 78 Indians in 2004, and 141 Indians in 2005. In 2006 we have deported 202 Indians. These are not to be supposed known as criminals or sentenced by a court of law in Britain. They are only immigration offenders who will be taken into custody by the police while seeing that they are overstaying, they do not have passport or visa or they do not have the valid document, etc.

My very senior colleague and friend, Shri Voraji, has mentioned that there was a discussion in the British Parliament. Of course, Sir, recently there was a discussion, which has been reported in the media of discussion the House of Commons. It was reportedly clarified by the British Prime Minister that the foreign prisoners would be deported to their country of origin irrespective of the nature of crime that is what I mentioned earlier. According to the British Prison Service there is reportedly no plan to accommodate the priosoners and offenders in open jail also. However, if the prisoners are found to be eligible for open condition as part of eventual release, they would be moved to open jail subject to availability of that condition. This is the information given to us by the British Government. They will be released only, on completion of the term of their conviction

period, they will never be released by before that. But many a time for expediting the judicial system our Mission approaches the appropriate authorities.Whether it is a court or whether other agencies, I cannot say. But one thing more I would like to say here also that on number of things we have already asked for information from the British High Commission, as well as the British Government through our High Commission in London. According to the British Prison Service they point out that there is no plan to accommodate the prisoners in open jail. Like that eventual release will also be then according to the terms and conditions of the British prison law.

They assert there is absolutely no discrimination on our Indian prisoners and also the British High Commission in Delhi informed Government that they will be able to inform about the other details by September this year. We have asked for many things and they have also mentioned one thing for our information. The Privacy Law prevailing now in England will not permit them to give the details to anybody except to a group to Government level. But, at the same time, Government to Government information shall not be made public except for Government purpose. There are 142 jails in Britain, out of these jails, they will have to make the checks and ascertain how many Indians are there and what is their terms of their imprisonment in respect of each and every one, in whatever jails they are. They wanted more time and they will definitely provide us but on the condition that we shall also not publish because according to their system they will not say who is there in the jail, what is the crime committed by him, what is the imprisonment, for what he has been convicted and for what offence. It is very much privy to that Government. However, they have agreed they will furnish the details to our Government for which we will have to wait. Here, my friend mentioned Purulia. Purulia does not come into the picture at all and only because of such a release, which has been done in the circumstances of the case, we cannot simply ask for the reciprocity of releasing of our people also. For one or two people, we cannot say that all the persons have to be released. There is absolutely no basis for such an argument. I would only assure the hon. Members, I am only thanking them for raising such an important issue and I would assure them each and every point that has been raised will definitely be looked into and whenever any Member has any such thing so far as the Indian prisoners are concerned or their problems are concerned or their welfare is concerned, I request them to furnish the details to our

Ministry. We are only happy to do whatever possible for our people. Thank you.

STATEMENT BY MINISTERS

Implementation of recommendations contained in the twelfth report of department-related parliamentary standing committee on coal and steel.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): Sir, with your kind permission, on behalf of my senior colleague, Shri Sis Ram Ola, I beg to lay a statement on the status of the implementation of recommendations contained in the Twelfth Report of the Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Coal and Steel.

Status of Implementation of Recommendations Contained in the Twenty-Fourth Report of Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): Sir, with your kind permission, on behalf of my senior colleague, Shri Priyaranjan Dasmunsi, I beg to lay a statement on the status of the implementation of recommendations contained in the Twenty-fourth Report of the Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information and Technology.

Status of Implementation of Recommendations Contained in the Twentieth, Twenty-Second and Twenty-Eighth Reports of Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): Sir, with your kind permission, on behalf of my colleague, Shri Shakeel Ahmad, I beg to lay a statement on the status of the implementation of